

AMENDMENT

In the specification:

Kindly enter the CRF copy and paper copy of the Sequence Listing enclosed herewith into the patent application identified above.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 77, line 28, continuing to page 78, line 5, of the specification as filed with the following replacement paragraph:

As used herein, the term "phosphate isostere" means a chemical group, which binds to one or more of the side chains or the main chain of the residues in the so-called P-loop or PTP signature motif of PTPases (i.e. Cys215-Xxx216-Xxx217-Xxx218-Xxx219-Xxx220-Arg221 (**SEQ ID NO: 1**), where Cys215 and Arg221 are absolutely conserved, whereas Xxx stands for less conserved residues). In PTP1B the P-loop residues are: Cys215-Ser216-Ala217-Gly218-Ile219-Gly220-Arg221 (**SEQ ID NO: 2**). As a non limiting example the following groups are phosphate isosteres: -CH₂PO(OH)₂, -CHFPO(OH)₂, -CF₂PO(OH)₂, -NHCOCOOH, -OCH(COOH)₂, -OCF(COOH)₂, -OCH₂COOH, -CONHCH₂COOH, -CONHCHFCOOH and -CONHCF₂COOH.